

THE JOHNSON CITY COMET

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUSY

ENQUIRING INTO BIG SHIPMENT AND REMOVAL NORTH OF MANY NEGROES

DOUBTFUL STATES GETTING

MOST OF THE BLACK LABORERS, PAYING HIGHER WAGES, IT IS REPORTED

Washington, Oct. 31.—Both the department of justice and the department of labor are watching closely the migration of southern negroes to the industrial centers. The legal officers hope to check possible election frauds, while the labor authorities are interested primarily in preventing their federal employment service from being used to further migration schemes.

Attorney-General Gregory, in addition to general information recently given to federal district attorneys in advance of the election, has ordered a special inquiry into complaints that negroes are being sent in considerable numbers to doubtful states under promises of work at higher wages. District Attorney Miller, at Louisville, has been ordered to report the names, towns and destinations of all negroes or any other "possible voters" going from Kentucky, Alabama, or any other part of the south, passing through Louisville in suspicious numbers. Other district attorneys in the south and in middle states are understood to be under similar instructions.

Department of justice officials decline to talk on the ground that it might interfere with the government's plans, while all reports and correspondence are being withheld from publication.

The attorney-general conferred with his assistants on the subject of election frauds generally. He is giving the matter personal attention, and under his direction, special agents of the department are at the call of every district attorney desiring assistance. So far complaints have reached the department of alleged frauds or contemplated frauds affecting candidates for federal office in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York and Missouri.

The department of labor let it become known that it had issued orders designed to prevent the use of the federal employment service in assisting in the migration of large numbers of negroes from the southern states. Assistant Secretary Post said the department had no intention of becoming a party to schemes which might be devised for purposes of lowering the wages of labor or breaking up strikes.

At the same time it was made clear that in cases where investigation proved a fact that skilled laborers were being hindered because of lack of unskilled assistants, and where there was legitimate work for negroes efforts would be made to secure them just as any other class of labor would be secured.

Much information regarding the migration has been collected. In the south complaint is being made that the negroes are being taken to the north with promises of much higher wages, and it continued a serious shortage of labor may result. The labor department was reported as feeling that any laborer is justified in going to that place where the wages are best, and that the place he leaves can remedy the situation by raising the scale.

The American Federation of Labor according to Secretary Frank Morris on, also is watching the movement of negroes with the idea that "it is no a scheme to get votes it is for the purpose of securing cheaper labor than is available at present." Representatives of the federation have been asked to observe and report on all large movements of negro labor.

GOOD TIMES COMING

And now they say that it is quite possible to have good fresh roasting ears all winter long. All you need is a patch of sweet corn and a cold storage plant!

The roasting ears are gathered and put in sacks, with the husk still on the cobs, and are then frozen in cold storage and left until wanted for use. All there is to do then is to thaw the corn out, husk it, cook about half as long as is required when fresh gathered, and go to it.

Just think of going up against a big dish of Country Gentleman on a cold January day! I hope the process will come into general use before I lose all my teeth.—Southern Agriculturist.

"I WONDER IF JIMMY DID THIS FOR MY SAK?" SAYS YOUNG BRIDE OF BANDIT

"They don't make any better boys than Jimmy, even if he did hold up a payor. And if you knew him as well as I do you would say the same thing. I'm going to stick to him until I die. He has been good to me, and I'm going to be good to him."

Without flinching a muscle, 48-year old Mrs. Mildred Walton, wife of James Gordon Walton, who shot a guard and escaped with a \$20,000 payroll, announced this determination to Mrs. Annie Felt, the matron at central police headquarters. She accompanied the officers who took her young husband back to Detroit, Mich., Friday night.

"Sometimes I wonder if Jimmy did this for my sake. He was always willing to get me anything that his salary would allow, and he seemed to be trying to make me as happy as he could. Maybe he robbed so we could have more than his salary was able to provide."

"I knew nothing of the robbery until it took place in Dallas, Texas, two days before he was arrested there. He had kept it from me all that time, and continued to shower me with gifts and affection. When he did tell me I almost fainted. Now they are taking him back to stand trial."

Mrs. Walton said she and "Jimmy" were married only a few months ago. On August 1 her "Jimmy" and two other men held up the payor of the Burroughs Adding Machine company at Detroit, shot one of the guards, who resisted, and escaped with \$20,000 cash. "Jimmy", who admits he did the shooting, is the only one who has been captured. The officers passed through Memphis on their way to Detroit with him.—News-Scimitar.

MACHINISTS STRIKERS AT ERWIN IN A STATEMENT

Claim Discrimination in Recognition on Part of the Management

Machinists of the shops of the C. & O. railway at Erwin, Tenn., who went on a strike last Thursday, Oct. 26, have issued a general statement addressed to "our fellow workmen and the public in general" in which they set forth the reasons for their strike. The statement first states that they were discriminated against as an organized body of labor, saying the management of the railroad and shops declined to recognize their organization while other railroad labor unions were recognized. The machinists also complain against the alleged use of "machinists' helpers" as machinists. They claim they sought arbitrary settlement of their differences with the management before the strike was declared but that this was not granted them.

STEAMER WITH AMERICANS ON BOARD IS SUNK

Attacked by Submarine Without Any Warning, Says Report.—Looks Serious to U. S. Officials

Washington, Oct. 30.—Preliminary reports of the sinking of German submarines of the British steamers Marina and Rowan More, partly manned by Americans, were too incomplete tonight to enable officials at the State Department to form an opinion as to whether there had been a violation of neutral rights or of pledges given the United States by Germany.

Secretary Lansing declined to comment further than to admit that the reports appeared more serious than the usual routine dispatches announcing the destruction of belligerent merchantmen, and that full information would be awaited with interest.

On its face the case of the Marina, reported by Consul Frost at Queens-town, presents the gravest situation that has arisen since the sinking of the channel liner Sussex, which had brought the American and German governments to the verge of a break. Although he cautioned that his information was purely "provisional," the consul cabled that the Marina, a "horse transport with a mixed crew of British and Americans," was reported sunk without warning by a German submarine gunfire, 100 miles west of Cape Clear, and that 70 of the crew of 140 were missing. Press dispatches have indicated that the missing men might reach shore in their boats later. Another message from Mr. Frost said members of the crew of the Rowan More, included Americans, had been shelled in their boats, while abandoning the ship after being chased by a submarine for fifty miles. There were no casualties.

We think of spring as flower-time, but did you ever notice how many kinds of fall blossoms there are, too? Keep the house full of them while they last.—Southern Agriculturist.

What do the home grounds look like? There is no excuse, you know, for an unshaded country home or one with only bare ground about it.—The Southern Agriculturist.

FRANCE WITH UNITED STATES

FORMER ANXIOUS TO PROMOTE TRADE RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY

IS READY TO CONSIDER

ANY PROPOSALS WHICH MIGHT BE MADE FROM THIS SIDE, SAYS COMMISSION

New York, Nov. 1.—Business interests of France are anxious to do everything in their power to promote trade relations with the United States and are ready to consider any proposals which might be made from this side, according to a report made by members of the American Industrial commission who arrived here on the steamship Philadelphia from Liverpool following a two months' visit to France.

The commission was organized under the auspices of the American Manufacturers' Export association to return the visit of a like commission of French interests in the United States last winter. Those returning included W. W. Nichols, of New York, chairman, and Edward V. Douglas, secretary.

According to Mr. Douglas, the party was treated with every courtesy while in France. They were given military escort and furnished with special trains and automobiles for their trips to the various cities.

"We went to the front," Mr. Douglas said, "at least we were close enough to hear the sounds of the bomb bombardment. At Belfort, where we visited October 2, the following day 25 shells fell in the city."

"We talked with David Lloyd George in Paris and were given a cordial invitation by him to extend our visit to England. In talking with us of trade and commercial matters to follow the war, he stated that it is not planned that Germany shall be put entirely out of it by the winning of the war—that she will have to be considered and dealt with in a commercial way after peace is declared."

Dr. Prince said he was in England when the news of his nephew's accident reached him and the British government placed at his disposal a destroyer to take him to France. The aviator was dead when he arrived. The body of the young American, he added, is now in a vault at Luxeuil awaiting removal to America.

HENRY FORD GIVES ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND

New York, Oct. 28.—Henry Ford plans to spend approximately \$100,000 for advertising throughout the country in the interest of President Wilson's campaign for re-election. It was announced here tonight by Henry Morgenthau, chairman of the finance committee of the Democratic national committee.

About \$500,000 more, according to Mr. Morgenthau's statement, is needed "to make certain of President Wilson's re-election." A summons to N. Y. State Democrats to subscribe the larger part of this amount has been issued, he asserted.

RAILROADS OPPOSE NEW LOCOMOTIVE SEARCHLIGHTS

New York, Oct. 30.—Prominent railroad officials left this city last night for Washington to appear today before the interstate commerce commission and ask to have vacated or modified an order that powerful searchlights be placed in all the locomotives in the country on January 1, next. The four brotherhoods of railroad employees, who started the fight for the searchlights more than a year ago, are expected to oppose the petition, it is said.

It is estimated that it would cost the railroads \$6,000,000 to equip the 68,000 locomotives now in use with the new searchlights.

NEW YORK DEMOCRATS GO TO SHADOW LAWN

Long Branch, N. J., Oct. 28.—Making his motto "Cooperation," President Wilson spoke here today at the principal meeting of a series of gatherings in many states arranged by the democratic national committee in celebration of "Wilson day." The occasion was also known as "Empire State day" here because delegations of organization democrats, independents, progressives and women from New York journeyed on special trains from New York City and State to greet the president and assure him of their support.

REV. JAS. A. RUBLE JOINS COMRADES

Dr. James A. Ruble, aged 76 years, a veteran of the civil war, member of Holston conference for the past 50 years and chaplain of the National Soldiers' Home here for many years, died at 12:45 p. m. here Sunday. He had been ill something more than a week, being stricken with an attack of asthma about ten days ago.

Funeral services were held in Memorial Hall at the Soldiers' Home on Monday at 11 a. m., and were conducted by Dr. J. J. Robinette. The body was forwarded to Knoxville, arriving Monday at 7 p. m.

Burial was at Maryville, Tuesday at 9:15 a. m. The services at the grave were under the charge of Dr. O. R. Tarwater, pastor of Trinity M. E. church, Knoxville.

Rev. James A. Ruble was a well known minister of the Methodist Episcopal church and first chaplain of the Mountain Branch of the National Soldiers' Home at Johnson City. He had been in declining health for some time and friends in this city were not surprised at the news of his death.

Dr. Ruble was a native of Tennessee and was left an orphan. He was reared by his uncle, James A. Ruble, who resided near Campbell's station in Knox county.

He entered the union army in 1862 as a member of the Fourth Tennessee cavalry, being a private for a time and was promoted to chaplain. The late Jacob M. Thornburg was lieutenant-colonel of that regiment and was general in command.

Dr. Ruble was admitted to trial in Holston conference in 1866 and was received into full membership in the conference in 1868. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Kingley in 1867 and elder by Bishop Scott in 1870. The following are his appointments during his career as a minister.

Maryville, 1866; Jonesboro, 1867; Cleveland, 1868-1869; Greenville, 1870-1871; Elizabethton, 1872-1873; Presiding elder of Greenville district, 1874-1877; same, Knoxville district, 1878-1881.

He was then made financial agent of Grant University at Athens for a period beginning in 1882.

For the years 1883 to 1886 he filled the pastorate at Maryville M. E. church and came from there to Second church, this city.

His next service was a four year term as presiding elder of Clinton district, 1889-1894; presiding elder of Knoxville district, 1895 to 1900.

He then served as pastor at Johnson City, 1901-1902, and chaplain of the National Soldiers' Home, Johnson City, from 1903 until the time of his death.

In the demise of Dr. Ruble, Methodism in this section loses one of its staunchest advocates. He was presiding elder of the Knoxville district from 1878 to 1881 and again from 1895 to 1900. He was pastor at Johnson City in 1901-1902, and was then appointed chaplain of the Mountain Branch National Soldiers' Home. He was widely known all over East Tennessee and has ministered on occasions in hundreds of homes throughout this section. His fifty years of labor in the Holston conference, Methodist Episcopal church, were blessed with a fruitful harvest for Christianity.

Although the evening of his life was spent among the comrades of the Soldiers' Home, Dr. Ruble's wonderful influences for good were felt throughout the community, as he was ever willing to counsel for the advancement of the cause of Christ. On May 30th, this year, the deceased divine was invited to this city to deliver the annual memorial day address under the auspices of the local posts of the Grand Army of the Republic. Although the venerable minister was not feeling in the best of health he consented to come to this city to pay a fitting tribute to the departed comrades of the army that had almost passed over the river of life. Despite the dreaching rainfall on May 30th, Dr. Ruble braved the storm and delivered the memorial address at the Market hall in this city. The inclement weather prevented his exercises being held in the National cemetery, where repose the remains of departed comrades of the exiles.

The deceased was a forceful and convincing speaker and was firm in his stand for whatever he considered just and righteous and for the betterment of humanity. In his declining years he remained steadfast in the faith of the Nazarene. His career was successful as a minister and loyal citizen and the news that he has fallen into eternal sleep will be received with sincere regret by hundreds representing all walks of life.

COMES BACK AT SEN. LODGE

FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR DENIES CHARGES MADE BY HIM

BRECKINRIDGE DECLARES

MAN WHO GAVE THE STORY IS A SCOUNDREL—MR. HOUSTON DENIES THE CHARGE

New York, Oct. 30.—Democratic national headquarters made public last night the following telegram sent by Henry C. Breckinridge, former assistant secretary of war, to the Philadelphia Public Ledger in reply to statements made in a speech by Senator Lodge quoting him in reference to the alleged elimination of a postscript from the second Lusitania note:

"Any one who quoted me to Secretary Lodge as represented in your telegram as quoted, is a scoundrel. No member of President Wilson's cabinet ever threatened him on any subject. The malice that would seek for partisan advantage to emaculate the potency of one's government in a vital international affair by the mongering of backstairs gossip is beneath contempt."

Another denial of Senator Lodge's assertion was contained in a message received at democratic headquarters from David M. Houston, secretary of agriculture, who said:

"I have received a telegram from the Philadelphia Public Ledger reporting Senator Lodge as having said at Brooklyn that after the second Lusitania note had been read the President added a postscript informing the German government that the words 'strict accountability' and other strong phrases were not to be taken seriously and that I threatened to resign if the postscript was added. Of course this is a fabrication pure and simple. The President would have been incapable of conceiving such a crooked course."

"I never heard of such a postscript and did not threaten, and have at no other time, threatened to resign. I would have been astounded at the reported statement if I had not noted other irresponsible, unpatriotic and disloyal utterances of republican leaders, especially those raising and dealing with sectionalism. Surely the republican leaders are very desperate and in sad need of issues when they lend themselves to such things."

COL. JAMES SAMPLE DIED IN NEW YORK

Col. James Sample died October 25 in Memorial hospital in New York, after a lingering illness. Col. Sample had been a prominent figure at the Soldiers' Home in this city for a number of years, having left here last June to visit his sister in New York. He was not well when he left and gradually grew worse until the end came last Wednesday. Col. Sample was a prolific writer and for a long while contributed a page of war literature to the Knoxville Journal and Tribune and every Sunday and very ably conducted a department in The Comet when he was a mere boy and served to the end of the conflict. He was 75 years of age and a few years ago attended a Confederate reunion at Richmond an enjoyed it immensely. He never tired of telling and of writing of his impressions and the treatment he received.

WHY WE NEED THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

The life of the school depends upon the teacher. The success or failure of a school is largely determined by the teacher. We are proud of the fact that the standard of teaching is being raised in the State of Tennessee. We shall give our loyal support to the school officials who are trying to make teaching a real profession alongside medicine and law. We need in the teaching profession today men and women of scholarship, professional training, vision, and above all, real community builders. The State of Tennessee is calling for teachers who are willing and anxious to work for the highest development of the boys and girls and for the betterment of the community. The consolidated school will have the services of the trained and efficient teacher, because it is an inducement to work under favorable conditions.—The Southern Agriculturist.

The man who puts on and takes off his piety with his Sunday suit is not lightly to be censured. Lots of flimsy fabrics are made for appearance rather than for service.—Southern Agriculturist.

KEEPING GOOD ROADS GOOD IS MOST IMPORTANT

Ample Provision for Maintenance Should be Part of Improved Highway System (Weekly News Letter)

Keeping good roads good is the most important task in connection with an improved highway system, once the construction work is completed. In the United States in the past this task usually has been neglected, the improved roads in many instances being allowed to deteriorate until they became almost impassable, when they were, at heavy cost, rebuilt. That States and counties are now coming to recognize the need of careful and thoroughgoing maintenance, however, is indicated by studies of county road systems in different sections of the country recently made by the office of public roads and rural engineering of the department.

While some of the eight counties in which intensive studies were made were found to have no provisions for maintenance and others were found to pay for upkeep of the roads out of bond-issue funds, thus creating a debt that would outlive the temporary improvement by many years, two counties in which maintenance conditions were practically all that could be desired. In Mississippi, it was found, there is a State law requiring that a special annual tax of at least 1 mill shall be levied for the upkeep of all roads constructed by means of bond issues, the fund to be kept separate from all other funds and to be used for maintenance only. Instead of deterioration taking place on the roads of some of the counties in other states on which examinations were made, it was found that in Lauderdale county, Miss., roads built several years ago and maintained from the special fund have actually improved since their completion.

The county roads of Franklin county, N. Y., it was found, are maintained with a contribution of 50 per cent by the State and under indirect State supervision. As a result of this system, the roads have been kept up to their condition on completion. While provisions for maintenance were of the whole not satisfactory in the counties of the other States in which studies were made, this condition since has been remedied in Virginia by the passage of a State law providing that an annual tax of not less than 3 per cent of the amount of bonds issued shall be levied to provide a maintenance fund for bond built roads.

The existence of a regulation tending to lessen damage to roads and to reduce maintenance costs was revealed by the studies in Spotsylvania county, Va., where the county supervisors had passed an ordinance placing a relatively low limit on loads that may be hauled in wagons fitted with narrow tires and a considerably higher limit on loads for wide-tired wagons. As a result most of the wagons using the roads of the county have been fitted with tires ranging from 3 to 8 inches wide.

DEMOCRATS USE \$1,338 ON CONGRESS CAMPAIGN

Washington, Oct. 28.—The democratic congressional campaign committee filed its statement today showing receipts of \$25,646 and expenditures and obligations of \$4,383. Of the receipts the democratic national committee contributed \$24,000.

A BANK THAT IS REALLY CO-OPERATING WITH FARMERS

A bank in the South, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, has an agricultural adviser. Not a man who tells the farmers how to farm, but a man who talks things over with farmers who wish loans, finds out what they mean to do with the money and advises them as to the amount to get for the purpose and the risk to assume. That is real co-operation with the farmer and worth more than all any bank can do in the way of sending out teachers and preachers of greater production. The farmer can find better agricultural advisers any time than the bank is likely to secure for him, but this expert assistance with their financial problems is just the sort of help many farmers need.—Southern Agriculturist.

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FUND NOW \$1,667,733

New York, Oct. 28.—Republican campaign contributions up to October 23 inclusive totalled \$1,267,757.29, according to the national committee's report of the receipts and disbursements made public here today by Cornelius N. Bliss, Jr., treasurer of the committee. This amount came from 22,226 contributors.

THE COMET. FOR JOB WORK

TO DISCUSS CAR SHORTAGE

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE FREIGHT CAR PROBLEM

LOUISVILLE, KY. NOV. 2

COMMISSIONERS SEND OUT LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR RAILROADS TO ANSWER

Washington, Oct. 28.—An informal conference on the nationwide car shortage will be conducted at Louisville, Nov. 3 and 4, by the Interstate Commerce Commission. McChord, upon the urgent request of shippers. Representatives of all southern and eastern railroads and of southern ship piers will be present.

The southern and eastern railroads, through their representatives, will explain the present car distribution, the delays in movement and unloading, return of foreign cars to the owning lines, the assessment penalties for misuse of equipment and measures adopted for securing relief. The shippers charge that railroads receive cars for export without assurance of water shipping facilities and permit their use for storage. The originating railroad lines claim that their cars are not promptly returned.

The interstate commerce commission today prepared a list of questions which they have requested railroads to answer. These ask each line how many of its cars were off its lines on Nov. 1 next; how many foreign cars were on its lines; what efforts made, and results, to have its cars returned; what restrictions it applies to use of equipment; what particular traffic is favorable in distribution of cars, and why, whether there is any particular traffic that the road feels warranted in giving less than its ratable proportion of available cars, and whether there is any reason to believe that employees are discriminating between shippers in car distribution.

Each road is asked whether the present traffic in its territory is abnormal for this season, and to what extent; how much additional equipment would be required to take care of all traffic offered; what percentage of equipment is out of service by reason of not meeting with interchange requirements; what proportion of equipment has been repaired within the past six months to make it fit for service; how many cars have been retired during the past year, and how many placed in service, or ordered, and when delivery of new cars is expected.

The commission also calls on all roads to state to what they "attribute the present acute car shortage," whether the shippers are co-operating in the endeavor to relieve the situation and what suggestions they can make.

THE WORLD MUST BE MADE TO REALIZE WHAT AMERICA STANDS FOR

The final test of the validity, the strength, the irresistible force of the American ideal has come. The rest of the world must be made to realize from this time on just what America stands for, and when that happy time comes when peace shall reign again and America shall take part in the undisturbed and unclouded councils of the world, it will be realized that the promises of the fathers, the ambitions of the men who fought for the bloody soil of Kansas, the ideals of the men who thought nothing of their lives in comparison with their ideals, will have been vindicated and the world will say: "America promised to hold this light of liberty and right up for the guidance of our feet, and behold she has redeemed her promise. Her men, her leaders, her rank and file, are pure of heart, they have purged their hearts of selfish ambition and they have said to all mankind: 'Men and brethren, let us live together in righteousness and in the peace which springeth only from the soil of righteousness itself.'"—President Wilson, at Kansas City, Feb. 2, 1916.

The inalienable right of every man to make a folo of himself is exercised to the full extent by the man who votes from prejudice or for a party name without any attempt to study the questions at issue or the personalities of the candidates.—Southern Agriculturist.

When at the children going to get their Christmas money? Have they had a chance to earn it at some useful task? Wrong management if they haven't.—Southern Agriculturist.